

**BEFORE A MEMBER OF THE POLICE BOARD  
OF THE CITY OF CHICAGO**

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE</b>	)	
<b>RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCIPLINE OF</b>	)	<b>No. 21 RR 03</b>
<b>POLICE OFFICER CEDRIC TAYLOR,</b>	)	
<b>STAR No. 18426, DEPARTMENT OF POLICE,</b>	)	
<b>CITY OF CHICAGO.</b>	)	<b>(CR No. 1091843)</b>

**REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

On January 7, 2021, the Office of the Police Board of the City of Chicago received from the Chief Administrator of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (“COPA”) a request for review of the Chief Administrator’s recommendation for discipline of Police Officer Cedric Taylor, Star No. 18426, arising out of the investigation of Complaint Register No. 1091843 (“Request for Review”).

The Chief Administrator recommended that the following allegations against Officer Taylor be *Sustained*:

Allegation No. 4: On or about November 25, 2018, at approximately 6:50 p.m. at or near 1167 South State Street (CTA Platform) in Chicago, Officer Taylor struck [S.M.] around or about the shoulders with handcuffs in hand without justification.

Allegation No. 5: On or about November 25, 2018, at approximately 6:50 p.m. at or near 1167 South State Street (CTA Platform) in Chicago, Officer Taylor forcefully took [S.M.] to the ground without justification.

Allegation No. 6: On or about November 25, 2018, at approximately 6:50 p.m. at or near 1167 South State Street (CTA Platform) in Chicago, Officer Taylor failed to comply with Special Order S03-14 by failing to active his body-worn camera to record law-enforcement-related activity.

The Chief Administrator recommended that Officer Taylor be suspended from the Chicago Police Department for a period of one hundred and eighty (180) days.

The Superintendent objected in part to the Chief Administrator’s recommendation. The

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Superintendent recommended that Allegation No. 5 be classified as *Exonerated* (the Superintendent agreed with the finding of *Sustained* for Allegation Nos. 4 and 6). The Superintendent recommended that Officer Taylor be suspended for ten (10) days.

According to the Certificate submitted by the Chief Administrator: (1) the Chief Administrator issued the recommendation for discipline on July 31, 2020; (2) the Chief Administrator received the Superintendent's written response on October 26, 2020; (3) the Chief Administrator's designees met with the Superintendent's designees and discussed this matter on December 29, 2020; and (4) the Request for Review was sent via email to the Executive Director of the Police Board on January 6, 2021.

The Executive Director of the Police Board prepared and forwarded the Request for Review file to Andrea Zopp, the member of the Police Board who was selected on a random basis, pursuant to Article VI of the Police Board's Rules of Procedure ("Reviewing Member"). On January 20, 2021, the Reviewing Member reviewed the Request for Review pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago and Article VI of the Police Board's Rules of Procedure.

## **OPINION**

It is my opinion that, based on a thorough review of the Request for Review file, the Superintendent has met the burden of overcoming the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline.

Officer Taylor responded to assist two fellow officers as they attempted to detain and handcuff [S.M.], who was actively resisting the officers. In doing so, Officer Taylor failed to activate his body-worn camera and used excessive force when he struck [S.M.] with handcuffs in

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hand. I do not believe, however, that the evidence as described in the file supports a finding that Officer Taylor forcefully took [S.M.] to the ground without justification; rather, I agree with the Superintendent that an emergency take down was justified in response to [S.M.]'s actions.

Officer Taylor's conduct warrants significant disciplinary action. Nevertheless, based on the totality of the circumstances of [S.M.]'s encounter with the officers, the lack of evidence of serious injury to [S.M.], Officer Taylor's extensive complimentary history (including 12 Department commendations, 67 honorable mentions, 7 complimentary letters, and 22 other awards), and his having not been subject to any disciplinary action within the past five years, it is my opinion that a suspension of 180 days is excessive.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 2-78-130(a)(iii) of the Municipal Code of Chicago, the Superintendent's response to the Chief Administrator's recommendation for discipline shall be implemented.

DATED AT CHICAGO, COUNTY OF COOK, STATE OF ILLINOIS, THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF JANUARY, 2021.

/s/ ANDREA L. ZOPP  
Member  
Police Board

Attested by:

/s/ MAX A. CAPRONI  
Executive Director  
Police Board